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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION

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AGRICULTURE

ADMINISTRATOR'S MEMORANDUM NO. 43

Advisory Assistance to Returning Veterans

As war veterans are demobilized a large number of them will wish to return to or become established in agriculture. Although many such veterans will have farms or farm jobs to which they will return directly a large percentage of those wishing to engage in agricultural pursuits will not have definite plans to that effect. Experience indicates that this latter group could profit by and will need a source of counsel and advice of a practical and specific nature. It is believed that one of the best sources of such counsel and advice would be an organized group of local farm people thoroughly conversant with local agriculture and agricultural possibilities in each respective county.

It is requested, therefore, that the Extension Service, with and through the cooperating State extension services, proceed as expeditiously as possible to establish such county agricultural advisory committees or groups under the leadership of the county agricultural agent for the purpose of rendering the type of advisory service needed. In addition to the direct assistance of an advisory nature which these committees can render in their own right, they can perform a valuable service through advising interested veterans (and others) of the administrative programs in the field of agriculture which offer some means of assistance to them.

Attached is a statement of the operational procedure which has been developed in consultation with Selective Service. That agency is notifying State Selective Service directors of the plan of operation. All agencies of the War Food Administration and the Department of Agriculture having field offices in the counties are requested to advise those offices of this arrangement and to give all possible assistance to such local advisory committees as they are established in meeting this important educational need.

*Glover B. Hill*

First Assistant War Food Administrator

Concurred in:

*Claude R. Wickard*

Secretary of Agriculture

Attachment





PLAN FOR RENDERING ADVISORY ASSISTANCE  
TO RETURNING VETERANS WISHING TO ENGAGE IN AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS

1. The War Food Administration, through the Cooperative Agricultural Extension Service, will establish as soon as possible an advisory group or committee in each agricultural county, on a non-paid basis, to render advisory assistance to returning war veterans (and others) wishing to engage in agricultural pursuits. The local county agricultural agent, under the supervision of the State Extension Director, will be responsible for the establishment of such an advisory group and will serve as liaison representative between the advisory group and the local Selective Service board or boards.
2. The county agricultural advisory group will arrange to provide advisory assistance to all returning veterans interested in becoming established in agriculture and desiring such assistance. Such assistance should include advice on such matters as the type or types of farming suitable to the different natural areas within a given county, amount of capital required, safe margins of indebtedness, sources of credit of different types, size of units necessary to maintain a satisfactory standard of living and permit retirement of indebtedness, satisfactory and equitable partnership agreements and leasing arrangements, sound operating practices and similar matters. To the extent feasible the number and types of farming opportunities available within the county where veterans might become established will be ascertained and made available to interested veterans.

In addition to assistance rendered by the advisory committee or representatives thereof to individual veterans through personal contacts, this committee will be responsible for determining the specific items of practical and factual information relating to local agriculture which should be assembled locally from appropriate sources and made available as guidance material for consideration by returning veterans. Although these committees will have no direct responsibility in connection with any administrative programs offering possible assistance to veterans they can be helpful through referring veterans to the nearest representative of agencies administering such programs.

3. The membership of the advisory committee should be predominately farm people familiar with agricultural conditions in the various sections of the county. However, other private citizens and employees of public agencies in a position to contribute to this effort should be given consideration as members of such a committee or collaborators therewith.
4. The advisory services of this committee should be made available to all returning veterans wishing such assistance. To facilitate the rendering of such assistance it has been agreed that the reemployment committeeman of local Selective Service boards will advise returning veterans interested in becoming established in agriculture of the assistance available and

will refer each veteran wishing such assistance to the local county agricultural agent as liaison representative of the local advisory committee. In cases where a returning veteran wishes to become established in agriculture in a different State the name of the State Extension Director of the State involved will be provided the veteran as a point of first contact.

5. Although the Extension Service is charged with leadership responsibilities in getting this agricultural advisory service to veterans established and functioning properly, the assistance of other local representatives of agricultural agencies functioning in the respective counties should be utilized to the maximum extent possible in insuring the most effective advisory service to interested veterans.